

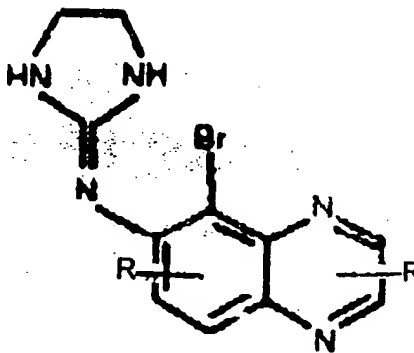
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of inhibiting a degenerative condition of a photoreceptor cell in a retina, which disease or condition is caused by damage, disruption, or degeneration of an RPE cell or a Muller cell, said method comprising contacting a photoreceptor cell having a degenerative condition said retina with a composition comprising a brimonidine compound in an amount effective to inhibit the degenerative condition.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the brimonidine compound has the following structure:



Where R is C₁₋₅ alkyl, Br, Cl or NO₂, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the brimonidine compound is brimonidine tartrate.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the amount of brimonidine is between about 0.01% and about 0.05% in a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

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Claim 5 (currently amended): A method of treating a degenerative condition of retinal photoreceptors caused by damage, disruption, or degeneration of an RPE cell or a Muller cell, said method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof, a composition comprising a brimonidine compound in an amount effective to delay or reverse said condition.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 5, wherein the brimonidine compound is administered topically to the eye.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 5, wherein the amount of brimonidine provides between about 10 and about 1000 nanomolar intraocular concentration.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 5, wherein said subject is a vertebrate.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 8, wherein said vertebrate is a mammal.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 9, wherein said vertebrate is a human being.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 or 5, wherein said condition is retinal detachment.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 or 5, wherein said condition is age-related macular degeneration.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 or 5, wherein said condition is retinitis pigmentosa caused by mutations in genes expressed in RPE cells.

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Claim 14 (original): A method of reversing or delaying degeneration of a photoreceptor cell in a retina, comprising contacting said retina with a composition that includes an amount of a brimonidine compound effective to inhibit GFAP expression in Müller cells.

Claim 15 (original): A method of reversing or delaying degeneration of a photoreceptor cell in a retina, comprising contacting said retina with a composition that includes an amount of a brimonidine compound effective to stimulate upregulation of glutamine synthetase in Müller cells.

Claim 16 (original): The method in claim 14 or 15, wherein the brimonidine compound is brimonidine tartrate.

Claim 17 (original): The method in claim 14 or 15, wherein the contacting is by topical administration.

Claims 18-24 (canceled)
